



VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS (VZV)

Agent Overview:	Varicella zoster virus (VZV) is a member of the Herpes virus group and causes chickenpox. Viral infection can remain latent and disease may recur years later as herpes zoster (shingles).
Lab Specimen Submittal:	Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, DPHL director, Christina Pleasanton, DPHL deputy director, or Dr. Jack Liou, bioterrorism coordinator.
Type of Specimens Necessary for Testing:	<u>PCR testing only</u> : vesicular swab or scab from lesion. See Smallpox protocol for routine DFA and viral culture requirements for varicella zoster virus.
Packaging Instructions:	Place in a sealed container. Transport to the laboratory in a double unbreakable container and outside of container decontaminated with 10% bleach.
Receiving Specimens at DPHL:	Authorized specimens are accepted at the back of the building by the loading dock. Submitter must present ID and complete proper forms.
Handling of Specimens:	Specimens may be held at room temperature until delivered to laboratory.
Reporting Results:	A positive or negative test result is issued upon completion of PCR. PCR may take 24 hrs.
Contact Information:	Jane Getchell, DrPH, DPHL director, 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage).